



SECRET

Department of State
TELEGRAM066620
POL 27 Camb/Khmer
YR DEF 1945-Camb
PR 11

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION: Amembassy PHNOM PENH
INFO: " SAIGON
STATE 066620
REF: Phnom Penh 693
EXISTS/KHMERREVIEWED BY *Amblay* DATE *10/9/80*
IMMEDIATERDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. With regard to arrival of AK-47's or similar equipment, suggest you refer press to statement in President's address last night where he said: "With other nations we shall do our best to provide the small arms and other equipment which the Cambodian Army of 40,000 needs and can use for its defense." You may also add on background what Kissinger said to press here last night on that subject: namely, "(Military aid) will be mostly in the nature of small arms, and perhaps such things as mortars, but no weapons that require foreign advisers or of great technical complexity". Recognize that there will be pressures for disclosing exact nature of "small arms being delivered". For the moment at least, these should not be identified. We will be providing further

DRAFTED BY:

EA:MGreen *mg*

DRAFTING DATE

5/1/70

TEL. EXT.

29596

APPROVED BY:

J-Ambassador Johnson

CLEARANCES:

EA - Mr. Moore *(ms)* DOD/JCS - General Vogt
EA - Amb. Sullivan *(ms)*
S/S - Mr. Eliot *ME* P - Mr. McClellan *MS*

SECRET

Classification



SECRET

Classification

Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

-2-

guidance on that question. Meanwhile, we would appreciate word from Saigon whether GVN has any objection to our people stating that ARVN is delivering more small arms by VNAF to Cambodia (~~xxx~~ Saigon 6569).

2. As to arrival of Khmer Krom (which we assume to be the "troops" mentioned in reftel), we believe it is best to issue any formal press release but not to let the story come out in response to questions.

When the story starts to surface, ^{GVN spokesman} ~~we~~ would admit in response to questions that, yes, these troops are ethnic Cambodians living in South Vietnam who ^{wanted} ~~want~~ to fight for Cambodia and that the Vietnamese Government allowed them to go, assisting them with air transport. It could also be said in response to questions that these ethnic Cambodians had come at the request of the Cambodian Government, that these units still retained their status in the Vietnamese Armed Forces but they will now be

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE

TEL. EXT.

APPROVED BY:

CLEARANCES:

SECRET

Classification

FORM DS-322
4-68



SECRET

Classification
Department of State
TELEGRAM

INDICATE:

☐ COLLECT
☐ CHARGE TO

DISTRIBUTION

ACTION:

-3-

under the command of the Cambodian Armed Forces as long as they are in Cambodia.

3. Further facts that can be drawn upon as required include: (1) basic logistic support will become the responsibility of Cambodian Armed Forces; (2) no American advisors will accompany these troops in Cambodia; (3) some of these units have come from South Vietnamese CIDG camps; (4) they are being flown into Phnom Penh aboard Vietnamese aircraft; (5) their mission will be to work with the regular units of the Cambodian Armed Forces to defend against attacks by North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces; and (6) up to four battalions of these Cambodian ethnic forces from Vietnam are ^{now} involved.

Would
4. ~~XXXXXX~~ appreciate comments of Embassies Phnom Penh and Saigon soonest on foregoing suggested press handling.

GP-1

END

DRAFTED BY:

DRAFTING DATE:

TEL. EXT.:

APPROVED BY:

[ROGERS]

CLEARANCES:

SECRET

Classification